

consumed by the fat and alcohol in the system supplying fuel.

Patients after having a large portion of the body burned, generally die from shock, as an old woman, seventy years of age, who was admitted to the hospital a few days ago, with one half the body burned from her clothes catching fire. In such cases nothing can be done, except palliation of the suffering by the administration of stimulants and anodynes, and the employment of soothing applications. If they survive the shock, a fatal issue may result, in two or three days, from congestion of some internal organ, as the lungs or brain; in the latter of which conditions they become comatose, presenting symptoms similar to those observed in narcotic poisoning. The occurrence of acute laryngitis, pleuritis, and peritonitis, and enteritis, which are frequently observed after burns, respectively of the neck, chest, and abdomen, is rather a curious phenomenon, since the surface has no direct circulatory communication with the larynx, lungs or abdominal viscera. Occasionally in the third or fourth week, if the patient survive so long, ulceration of the duodenum supervenes, accompanied with vomiting and purging. This result is possibly owing to the additional excretory work imposed upon the intestinal glands subsequent to the destruction of the skin, and the consequent cessation of excretion by that channel.

As regards the treatment of burns, it is necessary to meet the indications presented in the various degrees. If the injury has not extended beyond erythema of the skin, the application of some cooling lotion, as cold water, or Goulard's extract of lead, is all that is required. The preservation of the cuticle is important in the stage of vesication, because the epidermis acts as a bland covering; and therefore the indication is to prevent its cracking, allowing the access of air to the denuded surface. The dusting of flour on the burn, or the employment of a coating of a mixture of flour and molasses, so often prescribed in domestic practice, answers a good purpose by excluding the air and preventing breaking of the vesicated surface. Carron oil, a viscid, saponaceous mixture composed of equal parts of linseed oil, and lime water, adheres well to parts and has a high reputation in these cases. A very good combination is castor oil and carbolic acid; castor oil being perhaps preferable to linseed oil since it has not the exceedingly disagreeable odor that the latter possesses; and the anæsthetic and antiseptic properties of carbolic acid rendering the employment of this agent very beneficial. The solution may be made of one part of carbolic acid to ten of oil, or if the application is to be made to an extended surface, in the proportions of one to thirty or forty of oil. Instead of this, ointment of the oxide of zinc, with or without carbolic acid, can be used; or the part may be covered with moist clay, as Dr. Hewson has recommended in the treatment of burns and ulcers. When, as in this patient's case, the integument has been destroyed, it is necessary to use poultices until the slough separates, after

which emollient dressings are used and continued until cicatrization takes place.

The subject of burns is one of great importance at the present time, for on account of the extensive use of various highly inflammable and sometimes explosive fluids for illuminating purposes, and the application of steam power to every branch of industry, burns and scalds of the human body have become exceedingly frequent, and demand the surgeon's earnest attention, on account of the great mortality and the intense suffering incidental to them.—*Philadelphia Medical Reporter*.

#### THE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF CHILDREN.

According to Dr. Eustace Smith, of London, the alkalies are remedies of singular value in the medical treatment of young children. In all children, especially in infants, there is constant tendency to an acid fermentation of their food. This arises partly from the nature of their diet, into which milk and farinaceous matters enter so largely; partly from the peculiar activity of their mucous glands, which pour out an alkaline secretion in such large quantities. An excess of farinaceous food, therefore, soon begins to ferment, and an acid is generated, which stimulates the mucous membrane to further secretion. In all chronic diseases, and in many of the acute disorders, this sour condition of the stomach and bowels is present. Alkalies are therefore useful—firstly, in neutralizing the acid products of this fermentation; and secondly, in checking the too abundant secretion from the mucous glands. A few grains of soda or potash, given an hour or two after taking food, will quickly remedy this derangement and remove the distressing symptoms which arise from it. In the chronic diseases, indeed, attention to this point is of especial importance; for by placing the stomach and bowels in a healthy state, and insuring a proper digestion of food, we put the child in a fair way of recovery, and prepare the way for the administration of tonic and strengthening medicines, by which his restoration to health is to be brought about.

In prescribing for infants, an aromatic should be included in the mixture. The aromatics are useful, not only for their flavoring properties, but also for their value in all those cases of abdominal derangement where flatulence, pain, and spasm, resulting from vitiated secretions and undigested food, are present to increase the discomfort of the patient. Such dyspeptic phenomena are usually relieved rapidly by the use of these agents; and aniseed, cinnamon, caraway-seed, or even tincture of capsicum in minute doses, will be found important additions to the prescription in all cases where alkalies are required.

In prescribing for children, the proper dose of a medicine cannot always be calculated according to the age of the child, and does not in all cases bear the same proportion to the quantity suitable for an adult. For certain drugs children show a remarkable tolerance, while to the action of others they